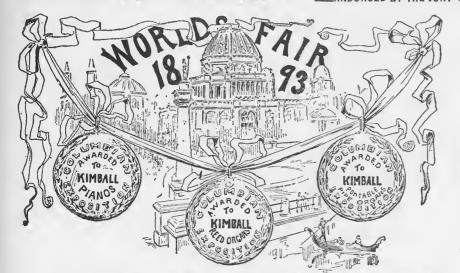
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was printed in 1640, in the Massachusetts Bay settlement, and called the Bay Psalm Book. A few years since one of these sold in New York City for \$1,200.

Music.—It is a peculiar thing, according to the New York Sun, that so many of the most prominent musical composers were born in winter months. Mozart, Schubert and Auber were born in the month of January; Handel, Mendelssolm and Rossini, in February; Bach and Haydn, in March; Beethoven, in December.

Science.—It is stated that Mr. Edison owned between 400 and 500 patents. When experimenting, he wore a long, loose frock of checked gingham, reaching from his chin to his feet.

One of the most admirable uses to which rubber has been put is for horseshoes; it is not only light and durable, but it markedly improves the hoof.

One of the novelties exhibited at the National Cyrest in nervous disorders, is sought. To receive a

NUMBERS.

Art.—It is said that Mr. Albert Bierstadt sold his painting, "The Last of the Buffaloes," for \$50,000.

Literature.—The first book printed in the English language in America was a book of psalms. This was printed in 1640, in the Massachusetts Bay settlement, and called the Bay Psalm Book. A few years since one of these sold in New York City for \$1,200.

Medicine.—"As a medical Student, in 1995 member hearing Dr. Oliver "It is a peculiar thing account."

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This canopy is like the ordinary buggy top, and is steadied by means of a small wheel at the back which runs on the ground.

Life Thoughts.—Your life is what you make it. The best philosophy—a contented mind. If you would be strong, conquer yourself. Man should be ever better than he seems.

opy which protected the rider from sun or rain.

Intending visitors to Bayreuth next summer are informed that the dates of the Wagnerian performances have been fixed. There are to be two cycles only of 'Der Ring des Nibelungen," namely, on July 22 and the three following days, and on August 14, 15, 16 and 17. The first (and perhaps the second) of these cycles will be conducted by Richter, and should Jean de Reszke attend the festival he will probably appear in "Siegfried" and "Gotterdammerung." For "Die Meistersinger," July 28, August 1, 4, 12 and 19 have been set apart. "Parsifal" is to be given seven times—on July 29, 31, August 5, 7, 8, 11 and 20—under the conductorship of Mottl.

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AN INTROSPECT.

At a recent meeting in Queenstown, Ircland, of the Munster section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, he leading organization of professional musicians in Great Britain, one of the members, Mr. Frank Holmes, read an admirable paper on the present status of the musical profession.

present status of the musical profession. He ealled for honest self-examination and rigid criticism. The following is a summary of his paper:
"The man who does not, once and again, pull himself up and ask, 'Where do I stand in the world?' is either afraid to face the inquiry or conscious of his lack of desire or ability to stand higher. Music stands highest of all the arts. Where do musicians—the rank and ale—stand? Nowhere? do musicians—the rank and de—stand? Nowhere? Why? Because we have neither aspired to a position nor entitled ourselves to it. The only thing we know anything about is music—and but little of that; and too often the musician, when he is a musician, is nothing more. We have not made ourselves in any sense a force in the world, and are not bound up in the great life of the nation. The best proof of this is the fact that we have found no place in the literature of the country—serious, romantic, dramatic, or comic. What great writer has ever taken an organist for his hero? What play has him even for its villain? There is no surer gage of the hold a class or profession has on the interests and sympathies of the public than the often recurrence of its individual types in the literature of the day. Our leaders in the profession are greater than their forerunners of the past three centuries. We, the rank and file, are of less account than the rank and rank and file, are of less account than the rank and file of any other profession then or now. The vast majority of us are held in humiliating contrast to all other professions. They despise us, and the world simply doesn't count ns. Among many discouraging conditions which we can not help we include the amateur—that daring thing with more time, more money, and more brains than ourselves—doing all the things we do (some of them better)—and all for nothing! Music being, as I have said, the highest of the arts, and we the lowest of the professors, there is a want of adjustment somewhere which it is our duty to find out and set right, and thus establish between music and musicians and thus establish between music and musicians that beautiful sense of proportion and harmony which—sadly we say it—does not exist now. Toward that desirable end may I make a few suggestions?

"Let us show more interest in, and sympathy with, the occupations and amusements of those around us. Let us elaim and exercise to the full all the rights—municipal, political, etc.—we may be entitled to. Let us join every movement for the lessening of the heavy burdens which press and keep down our brothers and sisters in our own and other lands. Let us ourselves live beautiful lives. other lands. Let us ourselves live beautiful lives, that so the refining influence of the art we love may shine through us and attract others. Let us, while extending our general knowledge of our art, so far as we can, find out the particular branch we have most natural aptitude, etc., for, and endeavor to excel in that. Let us, as often as may be, hear first-rate performances of first-rate works. Let us ourselves whether as performers conductors or rate performances of first-rate works. Let us ourselves, whether as performers, conductors, orteachers, have nothing to do with music that is not
of the best, never dreaming that popularity—or, for
the matter of that, unpopularity—is a proof of excellence. Let us always have a free pupil or two on
our list, with whom talent is more en evidence than the means to cultivate it. Let us never resent honest criticism—if only we are fortunate enough to get it. Let us remember that, in advancing our selves, we are most surely advancing our art; and that it, in turn, will shed on us, as we walk along together, some of the additional luster we have gained for it by our faithful service.

John C. Freund, whose new journal, Musical America, is meeting with extraordinary and well-

merited success, very aptly says in a recent issue:
A musical paper, to succeed, must offer an hon A musical paper, to succeed, must offer an honorable business proposition to advertisers, as, from the conditions controlling the publication of newspapers, the subscription price and the price at which the paper must be sold at retail do not cover the expense. This honorable business proposition must be offered to teachers, singers, pianists, musicians of all kinds, managers and the leading firms in the musical industries.

If the paper is to be purely a critical paper and a

in the musical industries.

If the paper is to be purely a critical paper and a paper for musicians and professionals only, it is obvious that it can offer no sound business proposition to advertisers of the kind mentioned, as the cards of the professionals would simply be read by other

professionals.

From this it follows logically that a paper to offer an inducement, in an honorable way, to professional people to support it by their advertisements, must be read by the musical public, by the people who pay to go to the opera, to concerts, to musical entertainments of all kinds, to the theater, by the people who have money, as well as ambition to give their children a musical education.

AN IMPEACHMENT OF GERMANY'S MUSICAL TASTE.

The German capital, says Edward Breek, "adores queaky singing and playing out of tune." As squeaky singing and playing out of tune." As proof thereof he unkindly refers to the cuthusiastic reception accorded Miss Lillian Russell, an "ordireception accorded Miss Lillian Russell, an "ordinary singer," and that lavished upon Miss Ada Colley, a young Australian lady, whose voice goes to an astonishing height till it resembles a whistle. When she sings "Cavalleria Rusticana," Mr. Breek's whole spiritual and physical being shudders with excruciating agony; but the Berlin andience rises as one man in a deafening din of applanse. Mr. Breek is correspondent for the New York Times, and he continues his case of impeachment as follows: "Now, I do not want to draw the conclusion from this appalling fact that the Germans are not lows: "Now, I do not want to draw the conclusion from this appalling fact that the Germans are not musical, but only that they are less so, particularly the masses, than we are taught to believe. In most ways the Germans are certainly the most musical people in the world; in a great many others they are the most unmusical. A conservatory student who engages himself at a small theater as third bandmaster, or 'choir repetitor,' at 100 marks a month or less, is required to read at sight badly copied orehestral scores, often corrected and altered to the point of illegibility and be cerebet the to the point of illegibility, and he can do this; but, unless he be an exception, he may become a celebrated conductor without being able to distinguish between a true and a false tone. There is no country in the world where so much music can be heard: there is no country in the world where so much singing and playing off the key is tolerated, nay, enjoyed. Here again the German national dulness of sense, which precludes finish and finesse, comes in. . . . The German stands alone as a creative musician; as an interpretive artist he falls far be low the Slav, the Hungarian, or the Latin; for the fire, the earessing touch, the diablerie—in a word, the artistic finish is not his; that unfailing instinct for the 'nuanee' which is the soul of artistic expression; Only of the preeminently classic is he a masterly interpreter, the music which allows of the least individuality on the artist's part, like Bach and Beethoven." As a further illustration, Mr. Breck refers to the celebrated German bands, which, he says, set his teeth on edge. Many a fife eorps in the Fatherland you may hear playing tunes a whole half tone too flat.

DEATH OF MAX ALVARY.

Max Alvary, the great Wagnerian tenor, and a popular favorite in the United Statee, died on November 8 of caneer of the stomach, in Tabarz, Thuringia, Germany. He was forty-one years old. Alvary's real name was Max Aschenbach, and his father is the wall-known pointer Oswald Aschen

father is the well-known painter, Oswald Aschen

Alvary's early training was not that of a singer. He had been an architect and a business man before he decided to cultivate his voice under Lamperti, in Dresden, and Stockhausen, in Frankfurt.

His progress was rapid, and in 1882 he made his debut at Weimar. His voice then was of a light tenor quality, and he was considered a talented exponent of the older Italian roles.

Alvary was ambitions, however, and he turned his attention towards Wagner. The "Trilogy" interested him most, and he made a close study of

the poem and music.

During Lilli Lehmann's first season in New York, Alvary came here and sang Don Jose to her Carmen. He was very well received, but it was not until he appeared as Siegfried in Wagner's opera of the same name that he had a chance to show his true artistic metal. Then his popularity instantly became assured, and reached its culmination in 1890, when, after his "farewell" appearance at a matinee several hundred women waited at the stage door until he walked to his carriage, and, in their uncontrolled enthusiasm, embraced the handsome tenor on the open street.

Alvary then became a member of the Stadttheater in Hamburg, and, later on, twice returned to this country, under Damrosch's management.

With their customary fickleness, the New Yorkers had grown indifferent to their one-time idol, and Alvary's reception was lukewarm. He was in poor physical condition, and about two years ago he fell ill. His money was soon exhausted, and some few months back his friends in this country found it necessary to get up a subscription in order to aid him to support his family.

Alvary's Siegfried has come to be accepted as the

standard interpretation of the role. He looked and acted the part to perfection. While retailing Wagner's declamatory style, he yet managed to lend Wagner's declamatory style, he yet managed to lend his singing a lyrical backgrund. Even De Reszke (a great admirer of Alvary, by the way) could not tell the story of Siegfried so simply and convincingly as Alvary He had also sung at Bayrenth, as Tannhauser and Tristan, but these roles earned him little success in America, though he looked a most picturesque Tristan. His voice was already gone then.

His last appearance here was in 1896, with Katherine Klafsky, at the Academy of Music.

Alvary inherited some of his father's taste, and assisted Walter Damrosch in designing the costumes for "The Scarlet Letter." His confreres in the for "The Scarlet Letter." His confreres in the United States all thought highly of him as a man and an artist, and sincere sorrow is everywhere ex-

NO VOCAL TEACHERS IN ITALY.

Adelina Patti and Mme. Sembrieh represent the best traditions in singing. They both have always refused to enlarge their repertories beyond the roles suited to their voices. Mme. Sembrich's opinions, therefore, earry much weight. In an interview she

"There are no singers among the younger Italians who are properly taught or take the necessary ians who are properly taught or take the necessary time to prepare themselves for the operatic stage. There are no teachers left in Italy to-day. If I were asked, I could not name a single one there to whom I would send a pupil. This is, of course, the chief reason why the younger singers of Italy are taught as poorly as they are. Another reason is that now they give their attention chiefly to roles that they think can be sung without great study. To sing Wagner's music properly a person should know all there is to know about the art of singing. But a great many do not believe that. They think it is enough to declaim or shout dramatically. The But a great many do not believe that. They it is enough to declaim or shout dramatically. younger composers of Italy are all writing music of that kind. Their imitation of Wagner has led to that kind. Their imitation of Wagner has led to the neglect of merely lyric singing. So we see young persons without adequate preparation who begin to shout Wagner and the works of the younger composers. The result is that the voice goes within a very short time. I know one young Italian who is now only a few years over 30. She is beautiful and a fine actress, but her voice is completely gone, merely because she was never propagly touch; and merely because she was never properly taught, and has been singing the dramatic music of the new composers. Formerly if they did not receive proper oreparation there was some chance for them to earn ultimately. They began with the lyric operas preparation there was some chance for them to learn nitinately. They began with the lyrie operas of Verdi, Donizetti, and Rossini, and if they afterward learned to use their voices properly it was not too late. The music they ang was not of a kind to injure the voice permanently. But now, when they start in on Wagner and the young dramatic composers and sing their music without knowing how to sing, the voice is gone before they realize that good singing is as necessary for one kind of music as it is for another. But they would find it difficult as it is for another. But they would find it difficult to get the proper training in their own country today, for the art of singing has declined there now until even the teachers seem to have forgotten the old traditions.

ONE OF WAGNER'S DREAMS.

Mr. Perey Betts, of the London Daily News, ealls attention to the fact that in the hitherto unknown letters from Wagner to Emil Heekel, the publisher, about to be issued by Fischer, of Berlin, the interesting fact is disclosed on authority that Wagner, at the time of his death, had in his brain the complete scenario for thren new operas on the subjects respectively of Martin Luther, Frederic the Great and Duke Bernard of Weimar. A Wagnerian opera, with the Protestant Reformer as hero, should have been a masterpice indeed. In some of these letters Wagner is frivolous: for example, in an epistle accompanying a photograph of his wife, he writes in German doggerel, "Dame Cosima is in good humor, though that surprises no one, for she posse

though that surprises no one, for she possesses a superior husband who writes good music." Most of the letters are, however, upon the establishment of the Bayreuth Theatre, and they are of deep interest. To the minds of many, it would seem almost an impossibility to conceive of Wagner's setting up Dr. Martin Luther as a hero of one of his highly emotional and passionately lurid music-dramas, although it must be admitted that the tearing down and burning of the Pope's Bull would have given the maestro a splendid chance for vehement, declar and burning of the Pope's Bull would have given the maestro a splendid chance for vehement declamation. Possibly Wagner intended to make Lither's interview with the devil, in which the learned doctor threw his inkstand at the arch demon's head, one of the scenes of the opera. By the introduction of red fire, with Mephisto conjuring up a powerful vision of temptation, to be followed by the discomfiture and flight of the infernal legion, Wagner would have had a superb inspiration for a weird and sensational effect. Frederic the Great, being of a satirical and philosophical bent of mind being of a satirical and philosophical bent of mind and without commanding stature or dignity of per-son, lends himself in a very slight way to the de-mands of a grand opera of the Wagnerian type. Both he and Napolian looked very insignificant on horseback and neither was in any sense a troid horseback, and neither was in any sense a typical popular hero of the Gustavus Adolphus, Wallenstein, or Cromwell type. Certainly Frederic's philosophical conversations with Voltaire would not show off well in nusical garb and then again, as Frederic was always proof against the charms of women, it would have been an opera ex necessitate, without a love-song.



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THOMAS M. HYLAND, .

EDITOR.

DECEMBER, 1898.

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KUNKEL POPULAR CONCERTS.

The Kunkel Popular Concerts given at the Fourteenth Street Theatre every Wednesday night are drawing large and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. Charles Kunkel, the head and front of these justly celebrated concerts, is sparing no pains to give the public concerts that, in so far as talent, scope of programmes and educative aims are concerned, are not surpassed. The public good is his aim He gives music lovers an opportunity of spending a few thoroughly pleasant and profitable hours every Wednesday night. He invites the younger generation, the students of music, to come and hear the works of the masters, receiving the encouragement that will send them back to their studies with renewed energy and inspiration, so that both parents and teacher will share in the good results. That the con-certs are successful, is evidenced by the great interest manifested in them. The following programmes

est manifested in them. The following programmes have been presented:
226th Kunkel Popular Concert, (seeond concert of the season), Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, 1898.

1. Trio—For Piano, Violin and Violoncello, op. 59, De Beriot. (a) Moderato. (b) Adagio. (c) Rondo—Allegretto. G. Parisi, P. G. Anton and Charles Kunkel

2. Duet for Piano—Il Trovatore, Grand Fantasie, Melnotte. Introducing Soldier's Chorus, Home to Our Mountains and Anyil Chorus. Charles J. Kunkel and Charles Kunkel

3. Song—Grand Aria, from Somnambula, Bellini. Mrs. A D. Chappelle.
4. Violoncello Solo—(a) Andacht (Devotion), op. 50, No. 3, Popper. (b) Reigen (Ring Dance) op. 50,

No. 4, Ib.
5. Piano Solo—(a) Alpine Storm, a Summer Idyl,
Kunkel. (b) In Dreamland, Valse Caprice, Bloeser.
(c) Satellite, Polka Caprice, Alden. Charles Kunkel.
6. Violin Solo—Carmen Fantasic Brillante, Hubay.

G. Parisi.
7. Song—Polonaise from Mignon, Thomas. Mrs
A. D. Chappelle.
8. Trio—For Piano, Violin and Violoncello, op.
49, Mendelssohn. (Two movements.) (a) Andante
con moto tranquillo. (b) Scherzo—Leggiero e Vivaee. G. Parisi, P. G. Anton and Charles Kunkel.
9. Piano Duet—To the Chase, Galop, Mori.
Charles J. Kunkel and Charles Kunkel.

227th Kunkel Popular Concert, (third concert of the season), Wednesday evening, Nov. 30, 1898.

1. Duet for Piano — Zampa Overture, Herold-Melnotte. Grand Concert Paraphrase. Charles J. Kunkel and Charles Kunkel.

2. Aria—Q mio Fernando, from La Favorite, Donizetti. Mrs. Josephine Hilty-Kinumel.

3. Violin Solo—Ballade et Polonaise, Vieuxtemps. Arnold Pasold

4. Song—I Will Love Thee, (Romanza), Stanzieri.
James J. Rohan.

5. Piano Solo—(a) Consolation, Chopin. (b) Whispering of the Fairies, Rubinstein. (c) Carnival of Venice, Melnotte. Charles Kunkel.
6. Song—(a) Spanish Love Song, Chaminade. (b) When Love is Kind, Old Melody. Mrs. Josephine Hilty-Kimmel.

7. Violin Solo—(a) Legende, Bohm. (b) Scherzo, Goens. Arnold Pesold.
8. Song—(a) The Dew Upon the Lily, German. (b) Arabian Love Song, De Koven. James J. Rohan.
9. Duet for Piano—American Girls March, Kunkel. Charles J. Kunkel and Charles Kunkel.

ROSENTHAL.

Moritz Rosenthal, the Polish Piauist, has taken New York by storm. His success, unlike that of others of his art, was purely due to his tremendous virtuosity. It is not a case of stimulated enthusiasm, of excited imaginations. The man's personality does not dominate the artist's genius. Authority of style, mastery of technique, absolute eommand of an instrument, which seems to become a mere plaything in his hands, and a marvelous exhibition of artistic achievement, touching the limits of human possibility, these are the factors which arouse his audiences of musicians and music lovers to the sincerest bursts of applause a public performer has ever received in this country. Caractic LUL has been received in this country. negie Hall has been crowded at every performance. The crush was such that the sale of tickets had to be stopped on several occasions. Strangely enough, there were no contentions, no taking of sides, no comparisons. The existence of differing forms of pianistic expressiveness was recognized. forms of pianistic expressiveness was recognized. The creation of a new idol did not mean the toppling over of an old one. The acclamations were not "Le Roi est mort; Vive le Roi!" The assertion that Rosenthal is the greatest of all technicists cannot be attacked. Such absolute perfection in digital dexterity was never exhibited to an American audience. Running passages in the purest legato; trills as even and smooth as the trill of the nightingale; runs in thirds in striet tempo; glissandi that seemed to be tingered on harp strings; chromatic scales that swept the keyboard; and chromatic scales that swept the keyboard; and above all, octave effects that were simply wonderabove all, octave effects that were simply wonderful in their rapidity of execution—these were the manifestations of Rosenthal's pre-eminence as an instrumentalist. Vivified as all this was by the bravura, the virility of a firm, masculine mind, directing an equally firm masculine touch, the effect was tremendous. It was a triumph of mind over matter such as is seldom seen even in these days of human victories over physics. It is true he aims at the use of manual dexterity purely as a means to the end, but the brilliancy of the physical work certainly overshadows the intellectual and emotional expressions. Of this more can be said when he has been heard oftener. He played a concerto tional expressions Of this more can be said when he has been heard oftener. He played a concerto by Schytte. This composer is a Dane, who writes simply and effectively. The first movement is brilliant, the second recalls the Scandinavian school, and the third is a Liszt-like piece of work formed of a succession of almost impossible technical problems. Then came two Chopin numbers, sweetly and deeply interpreted, an extraordinary contrapuntal study on a Chopin waltz; two Liszt compositions, fiery and dramatic, and as an encore a Henselt gem. deliciously played, and a Fantasic a Henselt gem, delieiously played, and a Fantasie on the waltzes of Strauss, in which the themes were buried in a web of musical embroidery. These re-

citals will undoubtedly be the greatest musical treat we have ever had. Rosenthal will appear in St. Louis Monday evening, January 30th, and Wednes-day afternoon (Matinee) February 1st, at the 14th St. Theater.

MISS BAUSEMER'S CONCERT.

One of the interesting features of the season was the concert given by Miss Edith Bausemer, daugh-ter of Mr. and Mrs. Franz Bausemer, at Memorial Hall, on the 11th ult.

The appearance of Miss Bausemer in the dual role of pianist and violinist was looked forward to with of pianist and violinist was looked forward to with special interest, and it may be said that the high expectations of the large and critical audience present were fully met. Splendid dash and brilliancy characterized her work, and every number showed artistic finish and unblemished technique. Miss Bausemer was literally showered with floral tributes, and was given a most enthusiastic reception.

ABORIGINAL AMERICAN MUSIC.

Professor Wilson of the National Museum states that music evidently occupied a prominent place in the arts of the ancient Mexicans, for it is mentioned by the early Spanish writers in connection with war, religious ceremonies, and of festivities of various kinds. The instruments described or mentioned were drums, timbrels, flutes, horns, trumpets, and rattles. According to Clavigero they had no stringed instruments. There is no representative of the ancient Mexican drum in the National Museum It is described however, the tional Museum. It is described, however, the "teponaztli" of the Aztees, as being made of a single block of very hard wood, somewhat oblong, square in shape, which was hollowed, leaving at each end a solid piece about three or four inches in thicka solid piece about three or four inches in thick-ness, and at its upper side was a kind of sounding-board about a quarter of an inch in thickness. In this were made three incisions, two running par-allel some distance lengthwise of the drum, and a third running across from one of these to the other just in the center. By this means two vibrating tongues of wood were obtained, which, when beaten with a stick, produced sounds as clearly defined as those of the kettledrums of the present day. The rattle, it is stated, appears to have occupied

an important place in the ceremonics of the ancient an important place in the ceremionics of the ancient Mexicans. A primitive form of dance rattle still used by the Yaqui Indians of Sonora, Mexico, is made of butterfly coeoons, which are divided into halves and sowed together at one end with a double cord. Each half of the cocoon contains a grain or pebble. They are attached to a long cord, which is a property of the log of the denses.

wound around the leg of the dancer.

The only instruments of metal in the museum collection of Mexican antiquities are bronze bells.

These appear to have been in general use by the Mexicans before the Spanish conquest, and they are often found figured in the picture writings representing the various objects which the Aztecs used to pay as tribute to their sovereigns.

senting the various objects which the Azeccs listed to pay as tribute to their sovereigns.

Whistles were used in Mexico and Central and South America. The whistling mechanism in all is identical with that of the modern flageolet, and the only distinction that can be made between them the only distinction that can be made between them is by classing the instruments which emit only one sound or note as whistles, and those which have one or more finger holes as flageolets. The smaller instruments are mostly grotesque caricatures of the human face or figure of animals or birds. The larger instruments are more like the modern flageolets. A figure is shown carved in marble. It has six round holes, the lower end being earved in imitation of an alligator's head. It is Professor Wilson's opinion that the antiquity of the instru-Wilson's opinion that the antiquity of the instru-ment may not be very great. The fact of its having six finger holes, he thinks, suggests European contact, as in all other specimens of this class from the Western hemisphere the usual number appears to have been four holes.

Alexander Henneman, the well-known voice specialist, has erected at 3723 Olive street one of the best-adapted buildings for music teachers in the West. Each studio is sound-proof, and the recital hall, which is fitted up with a splendid stage and has superb acoustic properties, will comfortably seat two hundred and fifty persons. The appointments throughout are in the best of taste. Teachers have now a most desirable and convenient Hall in which to give recitals.

Emil Liebling, the well-known pianist and composer, played at a reception given by the Chicago Press Club, and scored a great success by his artistic rendition of "Hiawatha," an Indian legend for piano, by Charles Kunkel.

Miss Carrie Vollmar's new song, "United the Blue and the Gray," has brought her many deserved compliments. It was one of the features at the recent reception tendered President McKinley.

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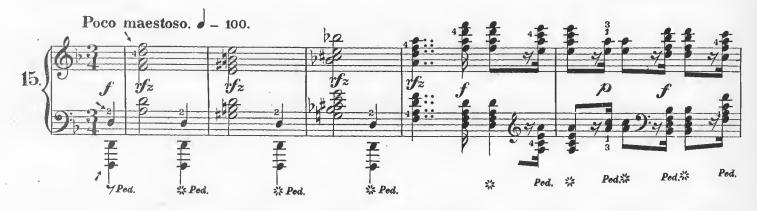
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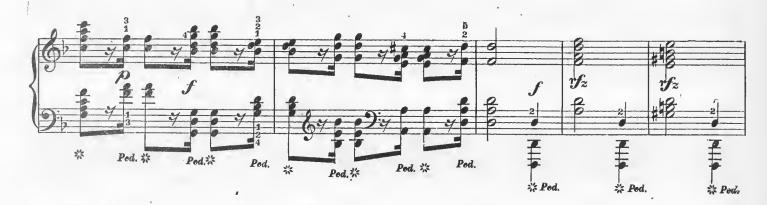
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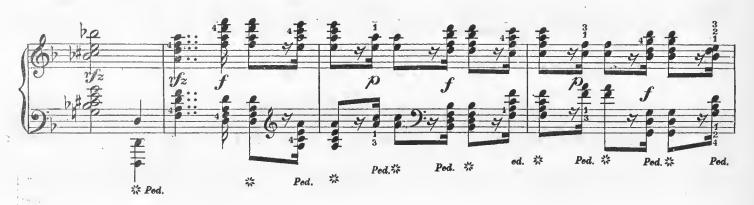
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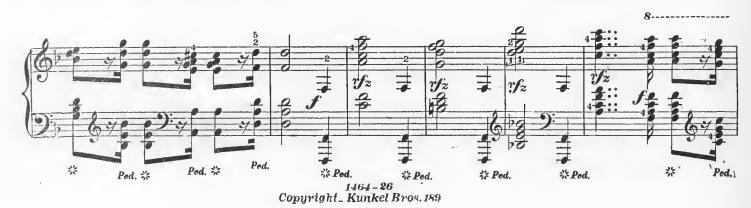
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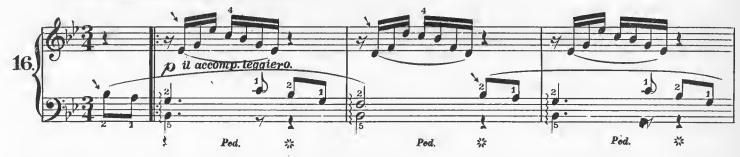


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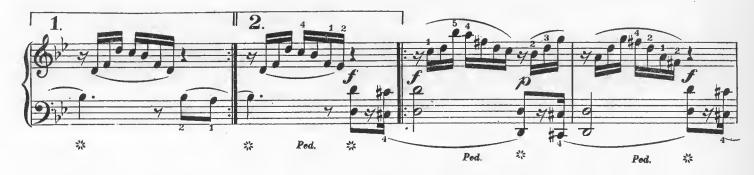
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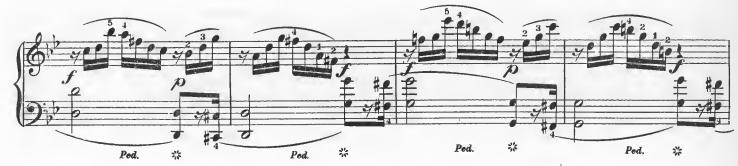
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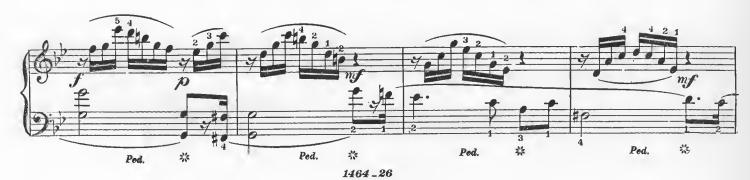
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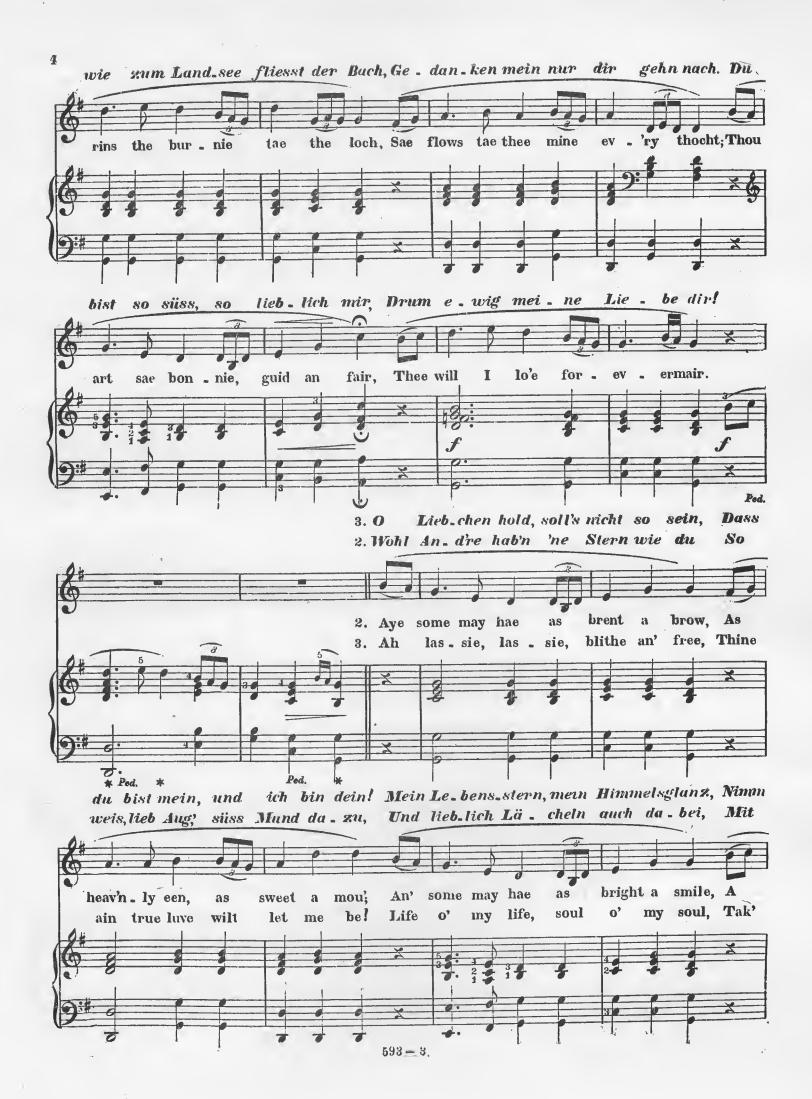
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Words and Music by

I. D. Foulon



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CHOPIN AS PIANIST AND TEACHER.

The following execrpts are from recent recollections of Chopiu from the pen of Georges Mathias, who studied with the composer in Paris for five years. The translation is by Kathleen C. Thorp, for

What shall I say of Chopin as a pianist and teacher? As a pianist? All those who ever listened to Chopin's playing can testify that they never ened to Chopin's playing can testify that they hever heard anything even approaching it! His playing was like his music, and what mastery, what strength! The latter, it is true, for only a few bars. What inspiration! What entrancing magic! The whole soul of the artist seemed to live in the instru-ment, and every hearer was filled with a sort of solemn awe. The instrument on which Chopin played has never given forth such sounds again! played has never given forth such sounds again! I know but one artist whose poetry, expression, and quality of tone remiud me of Chopin. But I shall not mention his name.

In the presence of women, Chopin surpassed himself, and if they possessed a title, that was no disadvantage; on the contrary! He was positively infatuated with the aristocraey, and who would wish to blame him? This predilection was a consequence to blame him? This predilection was a consequence of his thoroughly refined, thoroughly gentle, and loving nature; he esteemed elegantly dressed women, white hands, and rosy fingers! There could scarcely be anything more beautiful than this circle of aristocratic women for whom Chopin played. A veritable Decameron which he rendered immortal through his dedications. The artist and his heavener were of equal birth.

immortal through his dedications. The artist and his hearers were of equal birth.

This gifted artist interpreted Mozart and Beethoven with the soul of a Chopin, and that was glorious, wonderful! He did not belong to the historical critical race of pianists, though by this one does not mean to infer that the latter are wrong. Taste, knowledge, and technic arc in themselves much; but geniuses are unusual phenomena!

Touching his rubato. I must beg to be excused if

Touching his rubato, I must beg to be excused if I linger somewhat longer on the subject. Rubato is a sign which was already used by the old masters—Bach and others—and which, by means of altering the tempo, is one of the two factors that lead to make a support of the two factors are the support of the two factors and the material of the support of to music expression. Alternation in tone and tempo is as necessary as when in rhetoric the orator raises is as necessary as when in rhetoric the oratorraises or lowers his voice according to the feeling with which he is inspired, accelerating or restraining the flow of expression. Rubato is then a shading of the tempo. It embraces acceleration and retardation of the speed as well as impet-osity and tranqunity; but great moderation is required in the exercise of this mode of playing which is only too often misused. When listening to the interpretation of Chopin's music, one is constantly annoyed by the exaggerated use of the rubato. This is the fault of most dillettanti and, alas, also of many artists!

Who is not familiar with the grotesque mirror which reflects an image so distorted that one can

Who is not familiar with the grotesque mirror which reflects an image so distorted that one can searcely refrain from laughter! The exaggerated rubato gives me exactly the same impression! Chopin, as Madame Camille Duboif so rightly remarked, expressly required that the accompaniment for the left hand should be played strictly according to time, while the right hand with cantabile part glided smoothly ou over the bar with all freedom of expression. And that is easy to attain. One accelerates in advance, and again slackens the speed, the apparent irregularity of both hands being equalized in ensemble. This mode of playing Chopin advised, more especially for Weber's music. It seems to me as if I heard him to-day; not alone for his own music has he often recommended me for his own music has he often recommended me such a mode of execution, but also for Weber's compositions, as for example: the Sonata in A flat major, and also for the passage in A flat major, in the Concerto.

We shall now speak for a moment about Chopin as a teacher. I can still hear his "Excellent, my angel?" if anything went well, and can still see how he ran his fingers through his hair if anything did not go according to his mind. On one occasion, he

not go according to als mind. On one occasion, he dashed a chair to pieces before me! It is true, it was only a wretched straw-bottomed chair, such as might still be seen with artists at that time.

But what magnificent penetration into the spirit of the composition! What wonderful mastery in his power of elucidation, and of rendering the composition intelligible! As a means of expressing the secretar that was inharcent in him. Changes have the trues in horse the property of the contract o position then gible: As a mean of expressing the poetry that was inherent in him, Chopin's language was as eloquent as his music. It was poetical as that of a poet. At one passage, for instance, in Weber's above-mentioned sonata in A flat major, I well remember his saying to mc: "At this moment well remember his saying to me: "At this moment an angel flew through the heavens!"

I became acquainted with Chopin in the year 1840. He lived at No. 38, rue de la Chaussee d'Antin,

in a house which has since then been pulled down to make way for some alterations in the rue Lafayette.

me to take as preliminary studies, the A minor concerto of Hummel and Moschelle's Studies. (Chopin played the third study of second book with wonder-

Onee, when Chopin was ill, we were received by his pupil, Fontana, who played to us the master's first Ballade which my father—who was an excellent musician—and I searcely understood. Chopin's music, in those days, was looked upon as the Music of the Future, which will certainly seem strange to the young people of 1897.

I remorphor the first Innarountus ones 20 (Schless.)

I remember the first Impromptu, opus 29 (Sehlesinger), the Sonata with the Funeral March, the second Impromptu, the two Nocturnes, opus 37, the second Ballade, etc., which in 1840, at the time of the differences between Chopin and Schlesinger, appeared at Troupenas, in the rue Vivienne But there was no sale for all these, and they remained

on the shelves of the publisher!

Another time, when Chopin was ill and likewise confined to bed, he was kind enough to receive us. On the table by his bedside, I remarked the "Carnival," of Schumann, in Breitkopf and Hartel's first edition with an illustrated title page. My father asked Chopin what he thought of it; the latter answered with extraordinary coldness, and as if he scarcely knew the composition. That was in the year of 1840; the "Carnival" was published in 1834, but, as we have already said, Chopin not only outwardly conveyed the impression that he knew nothing of the ones 2 of Schumenn, but did not evident ing of the opus 9 of Schumann, but did not evince the smallest desire to become acquainted with it. He was as classical in feeling and sentiment as he

was as classical in feeling and sentiment as ne was romantic in phantasy, or rather, he was nothing of all this, he was simply a great genius!

In the highest and fullest sense of the term, Chopin was a simple man; not by any means simple in mind, but simple as regards criticism and literature. He was neither so widely read nor possessed of the many sided interests of a Liszt or a Berlioz. He was Soul itself and not Psychology; the psy-ehologists anatomize all the individual motives of a but possess none themselves; they are but

soul, but possess none themselves; they are but skilful surgeous.

Notwithstanding his friendship with George Sand, Chopin remained a stranger to all literary movement. He read little with the exception of the Polish poets, as for instance: Mickiewiez, a book of whose poems I always remarked on a little table in the saloon, "Marya Pan Padeusz." For Chopin was a zealous patriot, and all his money found its way into the poekets of Polish emigrants. Often I have had in my hands Chopin's manu-

often I have had in my hands Chopin's manuscript of his second book of studies which he dedicated to Comtesse d'Agoult, mother of Fran Cosima Wagner. A small, neat, delicate, and very pretty musical handwriting. As Chopin often received his friends during the lessons, I one heard Monsienr de Parthuis, Adjutant to Louis Philippe, say to him: "Why do you not write us an opera?" and Chopin answered: "Ah, Nonsieur le Comte, let me keep to my pianoforte music, that is all I can ackeep to my pianoforte music, that is all I can accomplish!"

Chopin possessed an execedingly small foot and loved to enclose it in sleek leather boots. I have never seen such glossy boots since! His coat, ever cut according to the latest fashion, was always but-toned closely to the chin. He carried himself with extreme elegance, and one was compelled to think on each occasion that he wore a perfectly new suit

Brignoli.—The silvery voiced tenor, was asked by the late Father Henry MeDowall, of New York, to sing in St. Agnes on a fete day (the Saint's day, I

to sing in St. Agnes on a fete day (the Saint's day, I think). Brignoli, always obliging, agreed to do so. Aware of his dilatory habits and forgetfulness of engagements, Father Henry asked me to go to the Everett House and feteh Brignoli to the church. If I had not gone to him, I am quite sure that Brignoli would not have arrived at the church until the service was over. I hastened his valet in dressing him, Brignoli submitting like a big overgrown boy. It was his custom, on leaving his room, in the

It was his custom, on leaving his room, in the winter season, to wrap his neek in a large woolen "eomforter." Before leaving his room he would make one wrap about his neek on leaving his room another on each floor as he descended, completing the wrapping by the time he encountered the chilling air on the street.

When we finally arrived at the church, the sermon was in progress. Brignoli was motioned to a chair reserved for him, leaned with his arms on the elbow rest and endeavored to attract Father Mcelbow rest and endeavored to attract Father McDowall's attention. At last, catching the preacher's eye, he called out, "stoppa ze preach. I sing now. Stoppa ze preach."

Father McDowall brought his discourse to a speedy close, and the great tenor charmed the large congregation with one of his most popular airs.

I do not believe it is generally known that Brignoli's superb voice, which had been failing him for several years, returned to him on his deathbed in

On my first visit—I was fourteen years old then
—I played to him a composition of my former master, Kalkbrenner: "Une pensee de Bellini;" Chopin listened to this abominable music with the greatest composure, without even a contortion of his eyebrows. Heaceepted me as his pupil, and directed on the broken is generarly known that Drig-noli's superb voice, which had been failing him for several years, returned to him on his deathbed in the Everett House. Like the dying swan, he saughts sweetest before expiring. Asking to be propped up on the pillow, he sang sweetly nutil, exhausted, he closed his eyes and breathed his last. several years, returned to him on his deathled in the Everett House. Like the dying swan, he sang

One careful investigator has estimated that 179 eoneerts will be given in New York this fall and winter, according to the present announcements, which do not include a number of others that are still to be heard from. These will possibly add a hundred more to the list, and the opera performances will also make their bid for the patronage of the New York public. And then they talk of the public of the patronage of the New York public. the New York public. And then they talk of "musi-eal atmosphere" abroad.

Verdi, who has permanently taken up his residence here in order to superintend the final estabdenee here in order to superintend the final establishment of the Home for Musicians founded by him, is again eredited with the composition and near completion of a new opera—"King Lear," according to some, but "Nero," according to other informants—Arrigo Boito being the librettist. The secre, report adds, is to be submitted ere long to a circle of the veteran composer's intimate friends.

Leschetizky, the piano teacher, governs with rules of iron. He charges five dollars a lesson, and the money must be put in an envelope and laid ou the piano by the pupil when he or she enters the room. We have some teachers who would like to room. We have some teachers who would have to adopt the same rule, but, unfortunately, they are not Leschetizkys!

I wish to endeavor to make it clear to the non-musical reader that all music is a matter of expression in sounds, whether by voice or instrument, and that nothing deserving the name of music can possibly be produced by ignorant people grinding out sounds by mechanical means, says a writer in an English paper. Every time this subject is discussed in the public press, there are some dunces ready to come forward and assert, with a show of virtuous indignation, that we "are trying to deprive the poor of their music."

show of virthous indignation, that we "are trying to deprive the poor of their music."

The fact is that no influence could be more vulgarizing and more vitiating to the public taste than the grinding of common-place and threadbare tunes on a barrel organ. It can have no educational effect but in the wrong direction; our public is one of the most unmusical in the world by nature, and the barrel organs can have no effect but to aid in the barrel organs can have no effect but to aid in keeping this taste at its present contemplated level. Secondly, the system encourages and keeps among Secondly, the system encourages and keeps among us a set of men who are merely idle loafers and vagabonds, common beggars, with the additional power of ereating an intolerable nuisanee. A man who plays a clarinet or a cornet-a-piston in a wind band, though he may not play very well, must nevertheless have acquired some small modicum of musical knowledge, and have given some little pains to learn the manipulation of his instrument; he is, therefore, in quite a different position, in principle, from an ignorant boor who merely turns a handle to produce mechanical noises; he is, in a humble and imperfect way, exercising a craft. The organgrinder is not; he is a lazy and ignorant fellow who prefers to be lazy and ignorant, and who takes to this handle-turning rather than apply himself to honest and useful labor. honest and useful labor.

Max Muller, in "Auld Laug Syne," tells how he met Liszt at Leipsic, and gives the following interesting account of the meeting of Liszt and Mendelssohn: Liszt appeared in his Hungarian costume, wild and magnificent. He told Mendelssohn that he had written something special for him, and sitting down, played first a Hungarian melody and then three or four variations each more incredible than the previous one. We stood amazed, and after everybody had paid his compliments to the hero of the day, some of Mendelssohn's friends gathered near him and said: "Ah, Felix, now we can pack np; no one can do that; it is over with ns." Mendelssohn smiled; and when Liszt came up to him asking him to play something in return, he langhed asking him to play something in return, he langhed and said that he never played now; and this, to a certain extent, was true. But Mendelssohn sat down and played first of all Liszt's Hungarian melody, and then one varietion after another, so that uo one but Liszt could have told the difference. We all trembled, lest Liszt should be offended; but he laughed and applanded, and admitted that no one laughed and applauded, and admitted that no one-not even himself-eould have performed such a bravura.

Never was there a composer more conscientious

ly fastidious than Mendelssohn, never an artist sonl more racked with morbid thoughts of his work's unworthiness. Apropos of this trait in Mendel-ssohn, Ferdinand Hiller gives us a characteristic aneedote:

"One evening," he says, "I came into Mendel-ssohn's room, and found him looking so heated and in such a feverish state of excitement that I was frightened.

"What's the matter with you? I called out. "There I have been sitting for the last four hours," he said. 'trying to alter a few bars in a song and can't do it

"He had made twenty different versions, the greater number of which would have satisfied most

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E. A. Schubert, director of the Orpheus Orchestra, at St. Charles, Mo., gave a very suecessful concert at the Opera House there on the 11th ult.

Mr. Emil Liebling, of Chicago, announces a series of Complimentary Piano Performances during the present season by advanced members of his class. At the first concert, S. Heilstonner and H. Grun rendered Midsummer Night's Dream Music, for two pianos, by Liszt-Kunkel, receiving unstinted applause.

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maiuly this: Your purposes are good, your courage is commendable, but your efforts have been misdirected; you have studied too much by yourself, been guided too exclusively by your own judgment You have to a considerable extent mastered executive have to a considerable extent mastered executive have to a considerable extent. You have to a considerable extent mastered execution, but you are deficient in taste. Your performances are erude, unfinished, and disagreeable to a really fine ear, and the longer you practice in the manner you do the farther you will find yourself from your goal. What you need is to go directly and place yourself in the charge of a competent and accomplished musician of taste, and acquire some style and musicianship; for, rest assured, there is no road into the higher circle except through the qualification of fine susceptibility. There are few people whose native taste is sufficient as a guide for practice.—Leader. practice.—Leader.

Mrs. Nellie Strong Stevenson is in Berlin, enjoying and profiting by the opportunities offered in the musical line there.

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